Amendments to the Claims

1.   (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

importing environment information of a target database system into a test system for emulating the target database system, the environment information comprising random sample statistics of the target database system, wherein the target database system supports a standard database query language;

storing the random sample statistics in a storage location; and

using the random sample statistics in performing query plan analysis for a given query in the test system.

2.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the environment information comprises random sample statistics from a selected segment of the target database system.

3.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the target database system comprises plural access modules, and wherein the environment information comprises random sample statistics associated with less than all of the access modules.

4.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the environment information comprises random sample statistics associated with one or more randomly selected access modules.

5.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the random sample statistics comprise at least some one of the following information: database name, base table name, number of rows in the base table, number of indexes for the base table, minimum row length in the base table, maximum row length in the base table, secondary index name, number of rows in a secondary index table, and average row size of the secondary index table.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein importing the environment information comprises importing the environment information of a target database system having plural access modules that manage concurrent access of plural portions of data stored in the target database system.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein importing the environment information further comprises importing information pertaining to a configuration of the target database system.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein importing the environment information further comprises importing cost-related information of the target database system.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein importing the cost-related information comprises importing information comprising at least ~~some~~ <u>one</u> of the following: number of nodes in the target database system, number of CPUs per node, number of access modules per node, an amount of memory allocated per access module, disk access speed, and network access speed.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising emulating, in the test system, an environment of the target database system using the random sample statistics, wherein performing the query plan analysis comprises performing the query plan analysis in the emulated environment.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein emulating the environment comprises emulating the environment at one of plural emulation levels, the plural emulation levels comprising a system level and a user session level.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising generating a full set of statistics from the random sample statistics.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising invoking an optimizer to use the full set of statistics to perform the query plan analysis.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising using an SQL DIAGNOSTIC statement to identify random sample statistics to capture.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising using another SQL DIAGNOSTIC statement to set random sample statistics in the storage location.

16.   (Currently amended) A computerized system for emulating a target database system, wherein the target database system supports a standard database query language, the computerized system comprising:

        an interface to receive environment information associated with the target database system, the environment information comprising at least one of the following: sample statistics collected from a segment of the target database system, and cost-related information pertaining to a configuration of the target database system;

        a storage system to store the environment information; and

        an optimizer adapted to determine a query plan in response to a given query in an environment based on the environment information.

17.   (Previously presented) The computerized system of claim 16, wherein the target database system comprises plural access modules to manage respective portions of data stored in the target database system, and wherein the sample statistics comprise sample statistics collected from less than all the access modules in the target database system.

18.   (Previously presented) The computerized system of claim 17, wherein the sample statistics comprise sample statistics collected from randomly selected one or more of the access modules.

19.   (Currently amended) The computerized system of claim 17, wherein the sample statistics comprise at least some one of the following information: database name, base

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table name, number of rows in the base table, number of indexes for the base table, minimum row length in the base table, maximum row length in the base table, secondary index name, number of rows in a secondary index table, and average row size of the secondary index table.

20.   (Currently amended) The computerized system of claim 17, wherein the cost-related information comprises at least ~~some~~ one of the following information: number of nodes in the target database system, number of CPUs per node, number of access modules per node, an amount of memory allocated per access module, disk access speed, and network access speed.

21.   (Previously presented) The computerized system of claim 16, further comprising a storage subsystem to store a system table containing the sample statistics.

22.   (Previously presented) The computerized system of claim 21, wherein the storage subsystem further comprises a cache and a global configuration file, the computerized system further comprising a controller adapted to load the sample statistics from the system table to one of the cache and global configuration file.

23.   (Currently amended) An article comprising at least one computer-readable storage medium containing instructions that when executed cause a computerized system to:

    extract random sample statistics from one or more tables of a target database system, wherein the target database system supports a standard database query language; and

    store the random sample statistics in a predetermined location for importing to a test system for emulating the target database system to enable emulation of an environment of the target database system.

24.   (Previously presented) The article of claim 23, wherein the instructions when executed cause the computerized system to present a graphical user interface having plural input elements activable by a user to perform export and import tasks.

25.   (Previously presented) The article of claim 24, wherein the instructions when executed cause the computerized system to issue a first SQL DIAGNOSTIC statement to the target database system to extract random sample statistics from a segment of the target database system.

26.   (Previously presented) The article of claim 25, wherein the instructions when executed cause the computerized system to issue a second SQL DIAGNOSTIC statement to set the exported random sample statistics in a storage location of a test system.

27.   (Previously presented) The article of claim 24, wherein the instructions when executed cause the computerized system to:

> present a screen displaying the random sample statistics; and
> accept user input to edit the random sample statistics.

28.   (Previously presented) The article of claim 23, wherein the instructions when executed cause the computerized system to extract cost-related information pertaining to a configuration of the target database system.

29.   (Currently amended) The article of claim 28, wherein the cost-related information comprises at least ~~some~~ <u>one</u> of the following information: number of nodes in the target database system, number of CPUs per node, number of access modules per node, an amount of memory allocated per access module, disk access speed, and network access speed.

30.   (Currently amended) An article comprising at least one computer-readable storage medium containing instructions that when executed cause a computerized system to:

> import random sample statistics of a target database system into a test system for emulating the target database system<u>, wherein the target database system supports a standard database query language</u>;
> store the random sample statistics in a storage location;

generate a full set of statistics from the random sample statistics; and

use the full set of statistics in selecting a query plan in response to a given query.

31.   (Previously presented) The article of claim 30, wherein the instructions when executed cause the computerized system to invoke an optimizer to use the full set of statistics in selecting the query plan.

32.   (Previously presented) The computerized system of claim 16, further comprising a controller to emulate, in the computerized system, an environment of the target database system based on the environment information,

wherein the optimizer is adapted to determine the query plan in the emulated environment.

33.   (Previously presented) The article of claim 30, wherein the instructions when executed cause the computerized system to:

import cost-related information of the target database system;

emulate an environment of the target database system based on the random sample statistics and cost-related information of the target database system,

wherein using the full set of statistics in selecting the query plan is performed in the emulated environment.